

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AGR-05

/091 W

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R 231643Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5680

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: SUSLOV SPEECH ON LENIN'S BIRTHDAY: DOMESTIC ASPECTS

1. SUMMARY. MOSCOW-BASED SOVIET LEADERSHIP, EXCEPT FOR KIRILENKO, TURNED OUT AT CEREMONY CELEBRATING LENIN'S BIRTHDAY APRIL 22. BREZHNEV LOOKED HEALTHY, AS DID OTHERS, WITH EXCEPTION OF ANDROPOV, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE JUST COME OFF MAJOR ILLNESS. DOMESTIC PORTIONS OF SPEECH GIVEN BY SUSLOV EMPHASIZED NEED FOR IDEOLOGICAL STEADFASTNESS AND, IN ECONOMIC SECTOR, CAME DOWN FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADERSHIP. EMBOFF WAS PRESENT AT LENIN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT KREMLIN PALACE OF CONGRESSES DURING WHICH CUSLOV SPOKE. OF MOSCOW-BASED LEADERS, ONLY KIRILENKO WAS MISSING. (HIS LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE WAS ON APRIL 15 AT CREATIVE UNIONS PLENUM.) SEATING ARRANGEMENT OF POLITBURO ON PODIUM WAS AS FOLLOWS: GROMYKO, KULAKOV, PODGORNYY, BREZHNEV, GRISHIN  
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(WHO WAS AT CENTER BECAUSE HE FORMALLY OPENED

MEETING), KOSYGIN, SUSLOV, PELSHE, MAZUROV, POLYANSKIY, ANDROPOV, GRECHKO. SITTING IN FIRST ROW OF CENTRAL SECTION BEHIND MAIN GROUP WERE PONOMAREV, USTINOV, DEMICHEV, SOLOMENTSEV, KAPITONOV, DOLGIKH, KATUSHEV AND UNIDENTIFIED THIN, BALD MAN WHO LOOKED TO BE IN HIS SIXTIES, AND WITH WHOM BREZHNEV SPOKE FOR SHORT TIME ON HIS WAY OUT. (EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING IDENTIFICATION OF THIS MAN FROM INR, BASED ON CENTRAL PRESS PHOTOS.)

3. EXCEPT FOR ANDROPOV, ALL POLITBURO MEMBERS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. BREZHNEV WAS SMILING, TANNED, AND VIGOROUS. HE CHATTED WITH PODGORNYY AND GRISHIN DURING SPEECH, SHOOK HANDS AND SPOKE WITH NUMBER OF THOSE ON STAGE AFTERWARDS, AND REMAINED ON STAGE FOR SHORT TIME ON DEPARTURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE APPLAUSE OF CROWD. ANDROPOV APPEARED TO BE IN BAD SHAPE. HE SHUFFLED IN, SAT UNANIMATED IN HIS PLACE IN HUNCHED-OVER POSITION DURING SPEECH, AND APPEARED TO HAVE PAINED EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE. ON DEPARTURE HE WALKED WITH NOTICEABLE LIMP AND RIGHT LEG SEEMED TO BE STIFF. HE DID NOT LOOK AT ALL HEALTHY. (EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW ANDROPOV'S LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON FEBRUARY 16 DURING WILSON VISIT SIGNING CEREMONY AND BEFORE THAT ON DECEMBER 24 AT RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION.)

4. POLITICAL. PORTIONS OF SUSLOV SPEECH DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC THEMES WERE GENERALLY UNREMARKABLE. AS COULD BE EXPECTED ON BIRTHDAY OF FOUNDER OF SOVIET STATE, IDEOLOGICAL UNITY WAS GIVEN HEAVY EMPHASIS. WHILE STRESSING "ADVANTAGES" OF SOCIALIST SYSTEM OVER CAPITALISM, SUSLOV SEEMED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE IN WARNING AGAINST "BOURGEOIS" INFLUENCE. HIS PRESCRIPTION WAS USUAL ONE -- TIGHTENING UP AND IMPROVING IDEOLOGICAL WORK, AND RAISING LEVEL OF COMPETENCE OF IDEOLOGICAL CADRES. ACCORDING TO SUSLOV, IT IS NECESSARY TO WAGE "UNCOMPROMISING WARFARE" AGAINST ANTI-COMMUNISM, ANTI-SOVIETISM, BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY AND REVISIONISM AND OTHER "HARMFUL REMANANTS OF THE PAST" WHICH ARE FOREIGN TO SOVIET WAY OF LIFE.

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5. ECONOMIC. IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SECTOR SUSLOV WENT ON AT LENGTH, WITHOUT SAYING MUCH NEW (STATISTICS HE CITED ARE REPETITION OF EARLIER PUBLISHED FIGURES), ABOUT SOVIET ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH HE TRUMPETED AS RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL BETTERMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS FOR CITIZENRY. SUSLOV DID TOUCH ON SEVERAL INTERESTING ASPECTS OF PARTY ECONOMIC

POLICY. HE NOTED THAT HIGH GROWTH RATES  
IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND IMPORVED QUALITY OF GOODS  
ARE DIRECT RESULT OF "INCREASINGLY SUCCESSFUL"  
JOINING OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL  
REVOLUTION WITH ADVANTAGES OFSOCIALISM. (COMMENT:  
PARTY POLICY DOUBTLESS IMPUTES CONSIDERABLE  
IMPORTANCE TO THAT THEME, DESPITE INHERENT CONTRADICTION  
BETWEEN HIGH-EFFICIENCY ATTRIBUTED TO LATEST R&D  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND RELAXED PERFORMANCE YARDSTICKS  
CHARACTERISTIC OF "SOCIALIST" ECONOMIES. (END COMMENT)

5. SUSLOV ALSO CAME DOWN FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING  
REORGANIZATION IN SPHERE OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT.  
HE TOOK NOTE OF "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE" IN CONCENTRATING  
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY INTO SELF-SUPPORTING,  
FINANCIALLY-INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS AND  
EFFECT THIS HAS ON ACCELERATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
THIS PROCESS, WHICH TO DATE HAS RESULTED IN  
CREATION OF "OVER 1500" PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS, IS  
CHARACTERIZED BY SUSLOV AS "A MAJOR STEP IN PERFECTING  
ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT." IN THIS CONNECTION, SUSLOV ALSO  
MENTIONS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ATTAINED IN AGRICULTURAL  
SECTOR IN SETTING UP "AGRO-INDUSTRIAL" COMPLEXES. LIKE  
THEIR INDUSTRIAL COUNTERPARTS, THESE ORGANIZATIONS  
ARE INTENDED TO ACHIEVE CONCENTRATION AND  
SPCIALIZATION IN PRODUCTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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